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Attorney Docket No. VPI/00-114

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Julian M. C. Golec, et al.  
Application No. : 09/863,649 Confirmation No. : 1044  
Filed : May 23, 2001  
For : CASPASE INHIBITORS AND USES THEREOF  
Group Art Unit : 1654  
Examiner : Jeffrey E. Russel

Cambridge, Massachusetts  
December 3, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in reply to the May 14, 2004 Advisory Action in the above-identified application. Following a November 5, 2003 Final Office Action and April 21, 2004 Advisory Action, applicants submitted a Notice of Appeal on April 5, 2004. Applicants have submitted herewith a request for a five-month extension of time to reply to the Office Action. The time for submitting an Appeal Brief is, therefore, up to and including December 6, 2004 (December 5 being a Sunday). In lieu of an Appeal Brief, applicants are submitting herewith a Request for Continued Examination. Accordingly, this amendment is timely filed.

Amendments to the claims are presented beginning at page 2 of this Reply. Remarks begin at page 17 of this Reply.